

# *They shall know that* **A PROPHET WAS AMONG THEM'**

**J**EHOVAH GOD is interested in having people know him. . . . They can know what to expect from him and what he expects of them. . . . One . . . by observing creation. . . . second . . . through his Word of truth, the Bible. . . . third. . . through his representatives. In ancient times he sent prophets as his special messengers. . . . People today can view the creative works. They have at hand the Bible, but it is little read or understood. So, does Jehovah have a prophet to help them, to warn them of dangers and to declare things to come?

## **IDENTIFYING THE "PROPHET"**

These questions can be answered in the affirmative. Who is this prophet? . . . This "prophet" was not one man, but a body of men and women. It was the small group of footstep followers of Jesus Christ, known at that time as International Bible Students. Today they are known as Jehovah's Christian witnesses.—*Watchtower*, 4/1/72, p. 197.

## **TESTING THE "PROPHET"**

Without question, Micah proved to be a true prophet of the one God, meeting the three basic requirements. That is to say: (1) He spoke in the name of the true God. (2) His prophecies came true. (3) His prophecies tended and worked to turn honest persons to the one true God.—*Watchtower*, 12/15/72, p. 743.

The Bible invites such a test. (1 John 4:1; Isa. 45:11) To conduct such an examination, we must have a standard, a set of requirements. The Bible itself establishes the rules for testing a prophecy, at Deuteronomy 18:20-22 and 13:1-3: (1) It must be spoken in Jehovah's name and at his command; (2) it must come to pass; (3) it must be in

harmony with God's commandments and thus promote right worship.—*Watchtower*, 3/1/65, p. 151.

Of course, it is easy to say that this group acts as a "prophet" of God. It is another thing to prove it. The only way that this can be done is to review the record. What does it show?—*Watchtower*, 4/1/72, p. 197.

## **REVIEWING THE RECORD**

No mere imperfect human counsel, but "the counsel of the Most High", you are sure to find in the multitude of booklets here listed:—*Safety*, p. 61.

## **THE TIME IS AT HAND**

. . . we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished at the end of A.D. 1914.— p. 99 (editions prior to 1908) . . . 1914 . . . at that date the Kingdom of God, for which our Lord taught us to pray, saying, "Thy Kingdom come," will obtain full, universal control, and that it will then be "set up," or firmly established, in the earth, on the ruins of present institutions.—p. 77 (editions prior to 1908)

Be not surprised, then, when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun. . . . and that the "battle of



the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced.—p. 101 (editions prior to 1908)

In the coming 26 years all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved.—p. 98-99 (1889 edition)

Our Lord, the appointed King, is now present, since October 1874.—*The Battle of Armageddon*, p. 621

Bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date for the *beginning*, but for the *end* of the time of trouble.—*Zion's Watch Tower*, 7/15/94

... October, 1914, as nearly as we were able to reckon. We did not say positively that this would be the year.—*Watch Tower*, 11/1/14, p. 325

#### ARMAGEDDON, 1915

... it is possible that Armageddon may begin next Spring, ... the year just before us - particularly the early months.—*Watch Tower*, 9/1/14, p. 261

... we consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished near the end of A.D. 1915.—p. 99 (later editions)

Be not surprised, then, when in subsequent chapters we present proofs that the setting up of the Kingdom of God is already begun, ... and that the "battle of the great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14), which will end in A.D. 1915 with the complete overthrow of earth's present rulership, is already commenced.—p. 101 (later editions)

The present great war in Europe is the beginning of the Armageddon of the Scriptures (Rev. 16:16-20). ... the present war cannot last much longer until revolution shall break out.—*Pastor Russell's Sermons*, p. 676.

#### THE FINISHED MYSTERY

... the Spring of 1918 will bring upon Christendom a spasm of anguish greater even than that experienced in the Fall of 1914.—p. 62

It is the Day of Vengeance, which began in the world war of 1914 and which will break like a furious morning storm in 1918.—p. 404

Until 1878 the nominal church had been in a sense God's sanctuary or temple; but he was from then on, culminating in 1918, to remove it with a stroke or plague ...—p. 484

Also, in the year 1918, when God destroys the churches wholesale and the church members by millions, it shall be that any that escape shall come to the works of Pastor Russell to learn the meaning of the downfall of Christianity.—p. 485

#### MILLIONS NOW LIVING WILL NEVER DIE

... Scriptures definitely fix the fact that there will be a resurrection of Abraham, Issac, Jacob and other faithful ones of old, and that these will have the first favor, we may expect 1925 to witness the return of these faithful men of Israel from the condition of death, ...—p. 88

Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old, particularly those named by the Apostle in Hebrews chapter 11, to the condition of human perfection.—p. 89

Based upon the argument heretofore set forth, then, that the old order of things, the old world, is ending and is therefore passing away, and that the new order is coming in, and that 1925 shall mark the resurrection of the faithful worthies of old and the beginning of reconstruction, it is reasonable to conclude that millions of people now on the earth will be still on the earth in 1925. Then, based upon the promises set forth in the divine Word. We



must reach the positive and indisputable conclusion that millions now living will never die.— p. 97

The date 1925 is even more distinctly indicated by the Scriptures than 1914.—*Watch Tower*, 9/1/22, p. 262.

Our thought is that 1925 is definitely settled by the Scriptures.—*Watch Tower* 4/1/23, p. 106.

The year 1925 is here. With great expectation Christians have looked forward to this year. Many have confidently expected that all members of the body of Christ will be changed to heavenly glory during this year. This may be accomplished.—*Watch Tower*, 1/1/25, p. 3.

Some anticipated that the work would end in 1925, but the Lord did not state so. The difficulty was that the friends inflated their imaginations beyond reason; and that when their imaginations burst asunder, they were inclined to throw away everything.—*Watch Tower*, 10/15/25, p. 232.

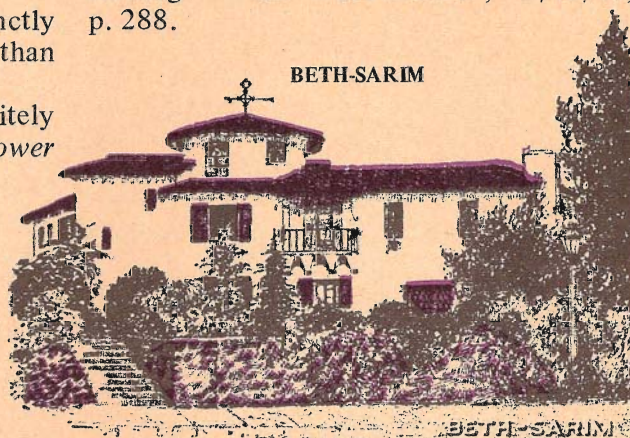
#### VINDICATION

There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the years 1914, 1918 and 1925, which disappointment lasted for a time. Later the faithful learned that these dates were definitely fixed in the Scriptures; and they also learned to quit fixing dates for the future and predicting what would come to pass on a certain date, ...—Vol. 1, p. 338.

#### THE BOOK, "CHILDREN"

Cartons of *Children* that had been deposited in The Arena were now opened, and Judge Rutherford instructed the children how to come and each get a copy thereof, ... Receiving the gift, the marching children clasped it to them, not a toy or plaything for idle pleasure, but the Lord's

provided instrument for most effective work in the remaining months before Armageddon.—*Watchtower*, 9/15/41, p. 288.



At San Diego, California, there is a small piece of land, on which, in the year 1929, there was built a house, which is called and known as Beth-Sarim. The Hebrew words *Beth Sarim* mean "House of the Princes"; and the purpose of acquiring that property and building the house was that there might be some tangible proof that there are those on earth today who fully believe God and Christ Jesus and in His kingdom, and who believe that the faithful men of old will soon be resurrected by the Lord, be back on earth, and take charge of the visible affairs of earth . . . it was thought well and pleasing to God that the aforementioned house be built as a testimony to the name of Jehovah and showing faith in his announced purposes. The house has served as a testimony to many persons throughout the earth, and while the unbelievers have mocked concerning it and spoken contemptuously of it, yet it stands there as a testimony to Jehovah's name; ...—*Salvation*, p. 311.

... those faithful men of old may be expected back from the dead any day now. The Scriptures give good reason to believe that it shall be shortly before Armageddon breaks.



In this expectation the house at San Diego, California, which house has been much publicized with malicious intent by the religious enemy, was built, in 1930, and named "Beth-Sarim", meaning "House of the Princes". It is now held in trust for the occupancy of those princes on their return. The most recent facts show that the religionists of this doomed world are gnashing their teeth because of the testimony which that "House of the Princes" bears to the new world.—*The New World*, p. 104.

Briefly it may be said that Brother Rutherford...went to San Diego under a doctor's treatment....In time, a direct contribution was made for the purpose of constructing a house in San Diego for Brother Rutherford's use.—*1975 Yearbook*, p. 194.

#### BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS

True, there have been those in times past who predicted an "end to the world," even announcing a specific date.... The "end" did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying.—*Awake*, 10/8/68, p. 23.

Jehovah, the God of the true prophets, will put all false prophets to shame... by not fulfilling the false predictions of such self-assuming prophets...—*Paradise Restored to Mankind*, p. 353.

Then Jehovah said unto me, the prophets prophesy lies in my name; I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake I unto them: they prophesy unto you a lying vision, and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their own heart.—Jeremiah 14:14 ASV.

Be on the watch for the false prophets that come to you in sheep's coverings, but inside they are ravenous wolves.—Matthew 7:15 NWT.

However, the prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. And in case you should say in your

heart: "How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?" when the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak. With presumptuousness the prophet spoke it. You must not respect him.—Deuteronomy 18:20-22.

#### LETTERS TO READERS

Jehovah's anointed witnesses are the modern-day "prophet" to the nations... Jehovah's witnesses are serving as God's modern-day "prophet" and they are acting under the direction of God's holy spirit.—To Shirley Van Buskirk from Watchtower (EF:ER), 3/21/74

Jehovah's witnesses are... fulfilling the role of Jehovah's "prophet" in his time of the end.—To Steve Robbins from Watchtower (EF:ES), 2/1/74

#### A LESSON LEARNED?

There was a measure of disappointment on the part of Jehovah's faithful ones on earth concerning the years 1914, 1918 and 1925, which disappointment lasted for a time. Later the faithful learned that these dates were definitely fixed in the Scriptures; and they also learned to quit fixing dates for the future and predicting what would come to pass on a certain date,...—*Vindication*, Vol. 1, p. 338.

It does no good to use Bible chronology for speculating on dates that are still future in the stream of time.—*All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial*, p. 286

#### JEHOVAH'S "PROPHET" VINDICATED

I tell you that every unprofitable saying that men speak, they will render account concerning it on Judgment Day; for by your words you will be vindicated, and by your words you will be condemned.—Matthew 12:36-37 NWT (1950 ed.).

Everything in the article above is quoted directly from official Watchtower sources, and may be verified by visiting your nearest Kingdom Hall or writing to Brooklyn.



# WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO 1975?

True, there have been those in times past who predicted an "end to the world," even announcing a specific date. . . . The "end" did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing?

Missing was the full measure of evidence required in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. . . .

But what about today: Today we have the evidence required, *all of it*. And it is overwhelming!—*Awake*, 10/8/68, p. 23.

1975 will mark the end of 6,000 years of human history since Adam's creation.—*Watchtower*, 8/15/68, p. 494.

. . . the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E. . . .

How appropriate it would be for Jehovah God to make of this coming period of a thousand years a sabbath period of rest and release, . . . This would be most timely for mankind. It would also be most fitting on God's part, . . . for the reign of Jesus Christ, the "Lord of the sabbath," to run parallel with the seventh millennium of man's existence.—*Life Everlasting - In Freedom of the Sons of God*, p. 29-30.

This seventh day, God's rest day, has progressed nearly 6,000 years, and there is still the 1,000-year reign of Christ to go before its end. (Rev. 20:3, 7) This seventh 1,000-year period of human existence could well be likened to a great sabbath day, . . . After six thousand years of toil. . . mankind is due to enjoy a rest . . . Hence, the fact that we are nearing the end of the first 6,000 years of man's existence is of

great significance.

Does God's rest day parallel the time man has been on earth since his creation? Apparently so. . . . In what year, then, would the first 6,000 years of man's existence and also the first 6,000 years of God's rest day come to an end? The year 1975.—*Awake*, 10/8/66, p. 19.

. . . now it is firmly maintained that by the autumn of the year 1975 the Battle of Armageddon will have been fought and God's new world will have been established.—W. C. Stevenson, circuit servant.

According to Erroll Burton, Paradise Valley Unit of Jehovah's Witnesses, . . . Within months, or at the most five years, the end of the world as we have known it will occur and a thousand-year reign of Jesus will begin.—*Arizona Republic*, 8/24/69, Section B, Page 7.

True, there have been those in times past who predicted an "end to the world," even announcing a specific date. . . . The "end" did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing? . . . Missing from such people were God's truths and the evidence that he was guiding and using them.—*Awake*, 10/8/68, p. 23.

Does the Watchtower Society have God's truths? Thousands of people in the Valley of the Sun and millions around the world who have the evidence that God is guiding and using them will gladly discuss this question with any and all honest sincere seekers of truth. Look around your neighborhood, you will find one of us or write P.O. Box 1641, Scottsdale, AZ 85252.



**W**HEN ALL THINGS BEGAN, the Word already was. The Word dwelt with God, and what God was, the Word was. The Word, then, was with God at the beginning, and through him all things came to be; no single thing was created without him." That is how the first three verses of the apostle John's account of the life of Jesus Christ read, according to *The New English Bible*.

Thus at the very beginning of John's account the very first one to be introduced to us is someone who is called "the Word." He is said to pre-exist all created things. "When all things began, the Word already was."

#### THE WORD ALREADY WAS

Of course, the Bible reader who uses the generally accepted versions or translations will be more familiar with the phrase: "In the beginning was the Word." But we are compelled to point out that this translation is so familiar that perhaps it blunts the full force of the first phrase of John 1:1.

The *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures* conveys the thought perfectly, "Originally the Word was." The *Rotherham Version* reads: "Originally was the Word," so does *The Concordant Version of the Sacred Scriptures*. The Greek word translated "Word" is *logos*: and so Dr. James Moffatt's *New Translation of the Bible* (1922) reads: "The

*"The Word"*

**WHO IS HE?  
ACCORDING  
TO  
JOHN**

*Logos* existed in the very beginning." *The Bible - An American Translation* (Smith-Goodspeed) reads: "In the beginning the Word existed." So does Dr. C. B. Williams' *The New Testament A Private Translation in the Language of the People*. Other readings

are: *The Cotton Patch Version* by Dr. Clarence Jordan: "When time began, the Idea already was." *Today's English Version* (also known as *Good News for Modern Man*): "From the very beginning, when God was, the Word also was." And the extremely popular *Living Bible*: "Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is himself God."

Unitarians tell us that the Word or *Logos* is God's first and only direct creation. But that is not what John tells us. Nor do any of the other Bible writers. Micah (5:2) tells us that the one who is to be born at Bethlehem is "from everlasting." The writer to the Hebrews describes the Son of God as being "without beginning or days or end of life." Paul explains, "Before anything was created, he existed."—Col 1:17 *Jerusalem Bible*.

(Regarding Colossians 1:17 see: J. B. Phillips, *The New Testament in Modern English*; "He is both the first principle and the upholding principle of the whole scheme of creation." *NEB*: "He exists



before everything, and all things are held together in him." *Mo*: He is prior to all, and all coheres in him." *An Expanded Translation*: "And He Himself antedates all things, and in Him all things cohere." And *AT*: "He existed before all things, and he sustains and embraces them all.")

Here we agree with Dr. A. T. Robertson when he says that John 1:1 "conveys no idea of origin for God or for the Logos, simply continuous existence." (Page 3, *Word Studies in the New Testament*, Vol. V) "See the claim of Jesus to eternal timeless existence in John 8:58; 17:5. See also Rev. 22:13 where Christ calls himself the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning (arche) and the End (telos)." (Page 479, *Word Studies*, Vol. IV)

#### THE WORD DWELT WITH GOD

The first phrase of John 1:1 tells us the Word is eternal. The second phrase speaks of his equality with God, the Father. "The phrase," says B. F. Westcott, "is remarkable." (*Gospel According to St. John*, 1971, p. 3.) "The idea conveyed by it is not that of simple coexistence...but of being (in some sense) directed towards and regulated by that with which the relation is fixed (v. 19). The personal being of the Word was realized in active intercourse, with and in personal communion with God."

Many of our newer modern translations try to bring this thought into English in a few words. For instance, take the following examples: Kenneth Wuest's *The New Testament, An Expanded Translation* reads: "The Word was in fellowship with God the Father." Dr. Clarence Jordan's *Cotton Patch Version* reads: "The Idea was at home with God." Dr. C. B. Williams' *The New Testament A Private Translation in the Language of the People* renders: "The Word was face to face with God." *The New English Bible*: "The Word dwelt with God."

#### WHAT GOD WAS, THE WORD WAS.

Agreeing with the *New English Bible*, the 1966 edition of *Today's English Version* reads: "What God was, the Word also was."

Is God perfect? So is the Word! Is God eternal? So is the Word! Is God all-powerful? So is the Word! Is God uncreated? So is the Word! Is God to be worshipped? So is the Word!

Certainly the matter was not confused in the mind of the apostle John when he wrote those words in the common Greek of nineteen centuries ago for international Christian readers. Today, amateur grammarians sometimes try to confuse faithful ones by pointing to the absence of the definite article *ho* before the word *theos* in the phrase *theos en ho logos*.

Says the noted scholar Westcott, co-producer of the famous Westcott and Hort Greek text of the Christian Scriptures: "The predicate (*God*) stands emphatically first, as in iv. 24. It is necessarily without the article (*theos* not *ho theos*) inasmuch as it describes the nature of the Word... No idea of inferiority of nature is suggested by the form of expression, which simply affirms the true deity of the Word." In view of the descriptive nature of the predicate noun for "God" in the original Greek, *A New Translation* by William Barclay (1968) renders John 1:1: "the nature of the Word was the same as the nature of God." The 1971 edition of *Today's English Version* attempts to convey this concept in fewer words, saying, the Word "was the same as God."

Williams translates, "the Word was God Himself" with a footnote saying, "God, emphatic, so God Himself." *The Amplified Bible* translates it the same. *The Living Bible* reads: "is Himself God." Following the Greek word order, *The Concordant Literal New Testament* reads: "God was the Word." Wuest's *Expanded Translation* says: "The Word as to His essence was



absolute Deity." Mantey translates: "The Word was Deity."

#### A SHOCKING MISTRANSLATION

In an article by the title, *A Shocking Mistranslation*, Dr. Julius R. Mantey says: "*A Manual Grammer of the Greek New Testament*, of which I am co-author, is quoted in the appendix, pp. 1158-59 by the translators of *The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures*. . . . They quoted me out of context. Painstaking research has recently discovered plenty of convincing evidence that translating John 1:1, 'god was the Word' or that 'The Word was a god' is without grammatical support."

In a letter to the Watchtower dated July 11, 1974, Mantey wrote: "(1) Your statement: 'their work allows for the rendering found in the *Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures* at John 1:1.' There is no statement in our grammer that was ever meant to imply that 'a god' was a permissible translation in John 1:1. . . . (2) Since Colwell's and Harner's articles in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, especially that of Harner, it is neither scholarly nor reasonable to translate John 1:1 'The Word was a god'. Word-order has made obsolete and incorrect such a rendering. (3) Your quotation of Colwell's rule is inadequate because it quotes only a part of his findings. . . . (4) . . . Both scholars wrote that when indefiniteness was intended the gospel writers regularly placed the predicate noun after the verb, and both Colwell and Harner have stated that *theos* in John 1:1 is not indefinite and should not be translated 'a god'. Watchtower writers appear to be the only ones advocating such a translation now. The evidence appears to be 99% against them."

"In view of the preceding facts, especially because you have been quoting me out of context, I herewith request you not

to quote the *Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament* again, which you have been doing for 24 years. Also that you not quote it or me in any of your publications from this time on.

"Also that you publicly and immediately apologize in the Watchtower magazine, since my words had no relevance to the absence of the article before *theos* in John 1:1."

#### IT MEANS OUR SALVATION

"Since we have examined so much of what John wrote about Jesus who was the Word made flesh, we are now in position to determine which of those several translations is correct. It means our salvation." — The Word — Who Is He? According to John, p. 52.

Any person of good will reading these three verses cannot help but see that John suddenly introduces us to one he calls "the Word" and that in three brief phrases he points to the Word as: 1) Eternal; "When all things began, the Word already was." 2) Equal; "The Word dwelt with God." And 3) of the same essence; "What God was, the Word was."

In verses two and three we learn that the Word is with God and 4) is the Source or Origin of God's creation (see also Rev. 3:14). "All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence." NWT.

If Christ was created — He must have created himself. To believe that Father created His Son is to disbelieve God's Word of truth, the Bible, which declares, "All creation took place through him, and none took place without him." — J. B. Phillips

Did He create himself or is He uncreated? The *NEB* reads: "No single thing was created without him." Nothing (himself included) was created unless he created it. This passage is in complete harmony with Colossians 1:16-20. Look it up; read it carefully, omitting material in brackets.